

September 10, 2012

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

RE:

Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming MB Docket No. 12-203

- 1. How many channels does your MVPD operator(s) provide for PEG programming? A: Each operator (3; Comcast, WOW!, AT&T) provides one Public, one Government and one Educational channel per city served, where there is content provided.
- 2. On which tier are these channels placed and is extra equipment required to view them? A: The channels are on the basic tier, although digital signal conversion boxes are required in the cases of AT&T.
  - 3. Are there more or fewer PEG channels carried on MVPD systems than were carried as of June 2010?

A: There are fewer now. Comcast reduced the number of Government and Educational channels that could be viewed by a given city to just one (their own). Formerly, many cities could view more than one of these (usually adjacent cities' and school's channels too).

- 4. What data sources exist to track the availability of PEG programming? A: Unaware of any data sources that track availability of PEG programming currently.
  - 5. [Please answer if you are in an AT&T U-verse community. Is there any evidence that AT&T's "Channel 99 PEG product" has hurt PEG viewership? Have there been any consumer complaints about PEG accessibility on U-verse?]

A: It would appear that the AT&T U-verse channel 99 product has hurt PEG viewership because numerous residents have contacted our (Public Access) channel and asked why they could not find Public Access programming on AT&T (we do not supply AT&T with programming because their requirements to do so create an undesirable precedent and would be costly). Many other viewers have commented that the time it takes to navigate to any PEG channel is troublesome and deters them from viewing PEG programming.

6. [Provide general information about PEG programming in your community. If applicable, explain how cutbacks in financing, state law changes, new technology, and so on have affected PEG programming in your community. In responding, keep in mind that you are "telling your story" of how PEG service are delivered in your community.]

A: PEG programming has been harmed greatly by economics that pit cities against schools and Public Access channel managers like us. The funds available through franchise fees have become coveted in some cases by cities that wish to use it to assist with other city expenses, and do so by funneling the entire franchise fee into support of Government Access at the expense of E & P. This is counter to the initial intent of PEG, and harms the transparency of government, as well as the voice of its constituents.

Submitted respectfully,

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